

Climate Change and Fisheries

Presented by the American Fisheries Society and the Potomac Chapter of AFS
Hosts: Ward Slacum (VERSAR) and Sarah Glaser (Virginia Institute of Marine Science)
Thursday May 9, 2013 ~ Rayburn 2456 ~ 1:30-3:00 pm

Fisheries and climate are intrinsically linked. In 2011, marine fisheries supported 1.7 million jobs and created \$199 billion in sales for the U.S.¹ Annually, 33 million recreational anglers generate \$4 billion in state and federal tax revenue.² But right now, climate change is affecting fisheries productivity. Migration and spawning patterns are changing, biodiversity is being affected, and aquatic “dead zones” are increasing.

AFS recommends:

1. Reductions in greenhouse gas emissions
2. Water conservation and watershed protection
3. Partnerships to integrate fish and wildlife management
4. Restoring historic hydrologic regimes to promote fish movement
5. Education about the effects of climate on fisheries
6. Programs to evaluate local effects of climate change on fisheries
7. Management activities that reduce ecosystem stressors
8. Encouraging research activities to characterize climate effects
9. Dedicated funding for climate legislation that includes conservation of fish and water resources



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Members of AFS have been acutely aware of how climate change is already affecting our aquatic and marine ecosystems, and our predictive modeling forecasts much more serious threats.... As you set our nation's course for the next four years, we urge you and your Administration to support science, address the realities of global warming, and further expand efforts to move a clean energy economy forward in the United States. As fisheries scientists and also concerned citizens, we offer our assistance in helping you redirect the Nation from a carbon-based consumptive economy to a more sustainable one.

~ Letter to President Barack Obama from AFS President Dr. John Boreman, Jan. 17, 2013

Speakers

John Boreman, President AFS. Welcoming remarks. (1:30-1:40)

Cora Campbell, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. “A State government perspective on integrating climate change information into the management process.” (1:40-1:55 pm)

Malin Pinsky, Princeton University. “Effects of climate on fish and fisheries.” (2:00-2:15 pm)

Jon Hare, NOAA Fisheries. “Climate change and marine fisheries: a northeast perspective.” (2:20-2:35 pm)

Leaf Hillman, Karuk Tribe California. “Importance of salmon in the Karuk culture and the importance of dam removal in mitigating climate impacts.” (2:40-2:55 pm)

About AFS

* Experts in all areas of fisheries available to Congress and organizations

* The oldest and largest professional society for fisheries scientists in the world: established in 1870, 9000 active members

* Mission: to advance sound science, promote professional development, and disseminate science-based fisheries information for the global protection, conservation, and sustainability of fisheries resources and aquatic ecosystems

* Approach: host scientific meetings around the U.S.; publish five world-class fisheries journals; promote research and education through public outreach

¹ National Marine Fisheries Service, *Fisheries Economics of the U.S.* 2011.
http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/economics/publications/feus/fisheries_economics_2011

² Outdoor Industry Foundation, *The Active Outdoor Recreation Economy.* 2006.